(c) and (d) Under the on-going schemes no time limit has been prescribed for submission of proposals for release of Central assistance. Central assistance is released to the State Governments including the Government of Kerala, on the basis of viable proposals received in conformity with the guidelines of the schemes and depending upon the availability of budget provisions under various schemes in each year.

Problem of weavers and artisans

2310. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of problems of weavers and artisans;

(b) how Government propose to solve these problems; and

(c) whether Government propose to set up a monitoring machinery to ensure proper implementation of various schemes/programmes for weavers and artisans?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI BASANAGOUDA R. PATIL): (a) The main problems faced by the handloom weavers have been adherence to traditional production techniques, lack of modern looms, inadequate supply of yarn, dyes & chemicals & non-availability of credit facilities at concessional rates of interest.

The artisans also face problems relating to marketing, raw material supply, credit facility & design inputs and training.

(b) The Government of India has been implementing several schemes to solve the problems of weavers and artisans. The details of the schemes are enclosed as Statement. (*See* below).

(c) Yes, Sir. A State Level Project Committee (SLPC) has been constituted in the handloom sector to examine the viability of each project proposal and recommend the same to the Government of India for approval through the State Governments. Besides this, various schemes/programmes being implemented in the handloom sector are continuously monitored by the Weavers Service Centres and by the Headquarter Office of the Office of the Development Commissioner (Handlooms).

A monitoring mechanism to ensure proper implementation of

schemes/programmes sanctioned for artisans is already in place. Various schemes being implemented in the handicrafts sector are continuously monitored by the Field Offices, Regional Offices and Headquarters Office of the Development Commissioner (Handicarafts).

Statement

Schemes in operation in handloom sector

In order to ensure sufficient availability of yarn, which is the major raw material in handloom sector, the Government is implementing Mill Gate Price Scheme under which yarn is supplied by National Handloom Development Corporation (NHDC) to handloom weavers and organizations at mill gate price. Government has also issued Hank Yarn Packing Notification under Essential Commodities Act 1955, which obliges yarn producers who pack yarn for civil consumption for sale/ transfer/delivery within the country have to pack at least 40% of the yarn in hank form.

Further, in order to give continued protection to the handloom weavers, the State Government have been instructed to arrange distribution of bank yarn to handloom weavers, free of excise duty (CNVAT) through designated organizations which could clain reimbusrsement of the incidence of CENVAT borne by them on such yarn from the Government of India.

In order to provide adequate and timely credit facilities at concessional rate of interest, refinance assistance is being provided by National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) to State Coopertive Banks for financing producftion and marketing activities of Primary Weavers, Cooperative Societies and for procurement and marking activities of Apex Weavers' Cooperative Societies.

A scheme, namely Deen Dayal Hathkargha Protsahan Yojana, was introduced in the year 2000-2001 to cover entire gamut of activities from basic input and working capital to provisions of design, marketing, publicity etc. The Government of India has also been providing financial assistance for development of exportable products and their marketing, organisation of exhibitions, fairs, crafts melas, setting up of urban Haats, marketing complexes, publicity and awareness programmes.

Apart from this, the Government has set up National Centre for Textile Design (NCTD) to collate and disseminate all information related to textile weaves, fabric, colour, design etc. to act as an electronic forum to give the weavers design and marketing exposure.

The Government has also promulgated the Handloom (Reservation of Articles for Production), Act, 1985 under which at present 11 categories of textile articles are exclusively reserved for production on handlooms.

Health Package Scheme, Workshed-cum-Housing Scheme, Thrift Fund Scheme, Group Insurance Scheme and a New Insurance Scheme have been in operation for the welfare of handloom weavers.

Besides, 24 Weavers' Service Centres are functioning to render extension services, which involve transfer of design inputs, skills and technology to the weavers.

Schemes in operation in handicrafts sector

The schemes include: "Baba Saheb Ambedkar Hastshilp Vikas Yojana" (AHVY), training and extension, design and technical upgradation, marketing support and services, research and development, financial assistance to state handicarafts development corporations/apex societies and export promotion etc. "Baba Saheb Ambedkar Hastshilp Vikas Yojana" (AHVY) seeks to develop selected artisan clusters into professionally managed self-reliant community enterprises working on the priciple of effective member participation and mutual cooperation and aims to achieve sustainable development of the artisan clusters.

Besides, 52 Handicarafts Marketing & Service Extension Centres are functioning all over the country to assist the artisans in the area of marketing, raw material, credit facilities through financial institution and design development etc. Further, five Regional Design & Technical Development Centres (RD&TDC) undertake development and dissemination of new designs and improvement of tools and equipment.

The Hon'ble Prime Minister had also announced in his address to the nation on August 15, 2002 the facility of a one time special rebate @ 10% of the value of the handloom products sold, so as to enable the handloom sector to dispose of their stock and kick-start this employment intensive industry by reviving its production cycle. For this, a sum of Rs. 100 crore was announced. The State Government have already been instructed to

take advantage of this rebate and prefer their claims for reimbursement of the rebate amounts. The Prime Minister had also announced a scheme with an outlay of Rs. 125 crore, for imparting training to 1 lakh weavers/ artisans so as to enhance their skill and marketing/managerial capabilities. Further, a special contributory insuance scheme for 1 million weavers/ artisans combining the Jan Shree Bima Yojana of the Life Insurance Corporation of India with Group Insurance was also announced.

Applications received under TUFS from Rajasthan

2311. DR. ABRAR AHMED: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have introduced Technology Upgradation Funds Scheme (TUFS) since 1st April, 1999 in all the States;

(b) the number of applications received under TUFS from the State of Rajasthan; and

(c) the status of applications received?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) the number and status of applications received under TUFS from the State of Rajasthan as on 31-12-2002, is as below:

(Rs. in crores)

Received			Sanctioned			Disbursed			
No. of Appli-	Project Cost	Amount of loan required	No. of appli- cations	Project Cost	Amount	No. of appli- cations	Project Cost	Amount Sanc- tioned	Amount
191	1354.81	786.96	156	963.48	464.35	140	921.62	443.89	369.54

Consignments of garment held up at European Ports

2312. SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether garment consignments worth more than Rs. 250 crores are being held up at European ports due to a quota row;

(b) whether the member countries of the European Union are not allowing Indian garment imports beyond permissible quota allotments; and